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shows itself further when Mr. Johnston criticizes the actors in this drama. Mazzini, for instance, was by no means the mediocrity here portrayed, although he unquestionably had some of the traits which Mr. Johnston describes. Nor was Garibaldi a Lilliputian. Gioberti was a man of mark, Antonelli far abler than most British statesmen of his epoch. And on the whole, did Englishmen, bred by centuries of freedom to self-reliance and courage, ever make a more gallant defense than did Mazzini and his miscellaneous corps of legionaries, who had no tradition of victory behind them, at Rome in 1849? Mr. Johnston does not fail to see the ludicrous in much of their hasty legislation, and in their exuberance of enthusiasm; but here again, he fails in the most important of an historian's attributes—sympathy. Would an Italian, who should infer that the British are a neurotic race and incapable of self-government, because he witnessed the delirious orgies in which they indulged less than two years ago at the relief of Mafeking and Ladysmith—would such a critic carry weight? Much of the misinterpretation, which on Mr. Johnston's part is unintentional, springs from deficient sympathy. Unless you seek the spirit of the Italian Revolution, you will never write a true history of it. Mr. Johnston has certainly done the utmost that a literalist could do.

The book abounds in typographical errors, especially in the proper names, and in such mistakes constantly repeated, as "*Giovane Italia*." It is also marred by slovenly expressions and split infinitives, from which an American proof-reader would have saved a careless writer. The historical student will find a larger bibliography on this episode than has been hitherto printed in English.

WILLIAM ROSCOE THAYER.

Political Nativism in New York State. By LOUIS DOW SCISCO. [Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, Vol. XIII., No. 2.] (New York: The Columbia University Press. 1901. Pp. 259.)

THIS interesting and important topic has received careful study from a competent investigator, but "leave to print" has led to the neglect of one of the chief duties of the historian—the sifting out from his material that which has no permanent interest. The book is weighted down with masses of details which have already lost their significance: there are long lists of minor and local officers in secret orders; names of candidates for a hundred different offices weary the attention; painfully precise returns in each election break the narrative at frequent intervals. A much stronger impression would have been made by far fewer statistics grouped in tables or presented graphically so that the changes in party strength might be seen at a glance. In many places the arrangement of material is mechanical, and the style is diffuse; indeed, with great advantage the study might have been shortened by a third. In a book of 250 pages, crammed with details, the omission of an index is unpardonable.

Mr. Scisco lays constant stress upon the distinction between a "movement" and a "party." About one-fifth of his space is devoted to the earlier manifestations of nativism, 1807-1843, in which it is interesting to recall that S. F. B. Morse was one of the most enthusiastic leaders. The rest of the book recounts the development of secret orders with nativist principles, and later, through the application of the secret society model to politics, the evolution of the nativist movement into a full-fledged political party, pursuing the ordinary objects by the ordinary methods. Much attention is given to detailing the growth of the legion of secret nativist orders in the period from 1843 to 1852, but too little care is taken in setting forth the particular conditions which at the close of that period occasioned the most noteworthy recrudescence of nativist activity in Know-Nothingism. The impression is given that political nativism practically came to an end in 1860; no attempt is made to trace the career or gauge the influence of the A. P. A.

The bitterly hostile factions into which both of the old parties were split made New York in the fifties an unusually favorable field for the springing up of a new party. The growth, coalitions, triumph and decline of the Know-Nothings are here presented as clearly as the tangled situation admits. The most interesting phase of the story is the relation between nativism and the slavery issue.

The spirit of this study is eminently fair. Narrowness and short-sightedness among the nativists are clearly pointed out; but certain creditable features, too often forgotten, are also brought to light: the early leaders were men of sincerity; "the Know-Nothing council in its best days was, in point of fairness and decency, a vast improvement over the party caucus of the time"; the nominees for public office almost invariably commanded respect both for character and experience; "from first to last, with all its errors and weaknesses, the record made by the secret system in New York State is not unfavorable to it. It did not encourage lawlessness, corrupt the franchise, or stifle public opinion, and all of these offenses were chargeable against the open political organizations of the day."

His thorough-going study of these nativist movements lends especial interest to Mr. Scisco's discussion of two topics, viz., secrecy in politics (pp. 196-202), and an analysis of political nativism, (pp. 242-254). The real work of nativism was to force public opinion to pronounce upon a definition of "American"; its contribution to the evolution of American democratic ideals is the opinion that "social clannishness, ecclesiastical domination and race combinations in politics exist by sufferance, but they are emphatically non-American ideas to be reprobated on broad grounds of public policy."

GEORGE H. HAYNES.